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# Southwest Tanna language

**Southwest Tanna** is a dialect chain spoken on the southwestern coast of Tanna Island in Vanuatu. Lynch (1982) names three major dialects: Nivhaal in the north-west of the language area (spelt "Nauvhal" in publicity for the 2015 film *Tanna*), Nivai in the south-west, and Nelpwaai in the north-east.[3]

| Southwest Tanna | |
|---|---|
| Nawal | |
| **Native to** | Vanuatu |
| **Region** | Tanna Island |
| **Native speakers** | 4,500 (2011)[1] |
| **Language family** | Austronesian<br>▪ Malayo-Polynesian<br>▪ Oceanic<br>▪ Southern Oceanic<br>▪ South Vanuatu<br>▪ Tanna<br>▪ **Southwest Tanna** |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | `nwi` |
| **Glottolog** | `sout2869 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2869)`[2] |

## References


1. Southwest Tanna (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/nwi/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Southwest Tanna" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2869). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. John Lynch (1982). "South-West Tanna Grammar Outline and Vocabulary" (http://search.proquest.com/openview/4c95529cbbaf062ae35c4c28e1b41170/1?pq-origsite=gscholar). *Papers in Linguistics of Melanesia*. **4**.


## External links

- Database of audio recordings in language of Tanna, Southwest - basic Catholic prayers (http://dominicweb.eu/en/endictionaries/exotic-languages-prayers?nwi)
- Paradisec has two collections of Arthur Cappell's materials (AC1 (http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC1), AC2 (http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/AC2)) that include Southwest Tanna language materials.
- Nehrbass's Comprehensive lexicon contains data on the dialects of the Southwest Tanna language ([1] (https://www.sil.org/system/files/reapdata/36/15/61/36156181226012482237007888413028636967/e_Book_34_Nehrbass_Tanna_Vanuatu.pdf))


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**This page was last edited on 15 June 2020, at 21:23 (UTC).**

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